

APPENDIX C ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTIONS AND DISPOSITION

A. OVERVIEW

Determination of the future management of specific geographic areas on the Forest which are currently unroaded and undeveloped is one goal of this Environmental Impact Statement and Forest Plan.

Some people enjoy the recreation experience available in undeveloped areas. Areas maintained in an undeveloped condition will also be eligible for future wilderness designation. Some people contend that the areas need to be managed so the resources available in them can contribute to local industrial and economic needs.

With the passage of the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984, Congress found that the Forest Service was not required to review the wilderness option for the remaining Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) areas, parcels less than 5,000 acres in size, and certain areas evaluated for wilderness in unit plans. Further Planning Areas will be considered for inclusion in the Wilderness Preservation System for this planning process. Pine Creek is the only Further Planning Area on this Forest. This law does provide that the areas still in an unroaded condition when this plan is revised shall be reviewed with wilderness as an option.

According to the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984

".. with respect to the National Forest System lands. which were reviewed by the Department of Agriculture in the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II),. .(RARE II) shall be deemed for the purpose of the initial land management plans to be an adequate consideration of the suitability of such lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and the Department of Agriculture shall not be required to review the wilderness option prior to the revision of the (Forest) plans, but shall review the wilderness options when the plans are revised which will ordinarily occur on a ten-year cycle. .(Roadless Areas) shall be managed for multiple use in accordance with land management plans pursuant to Section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976; provided that such areas need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of the land management plans " (Public Law 98-328)

The purpose of this appendix is to present a detailed and site-specific analysis of the RARE II areas and the Pine Creek Further Planning Area of the Malheur National Forest. It includes a description of the resources, physiographic and biologic features, and the present management situation for each area. In addition, it specifically indicates how each area would be affected by the alternatives analyzed.

Since Congress has not designated these areas as wilderness, this appendix does not make a recommendation on the wilderness option for the unroaded areas. Congress has done that.

This appendix does present information about the unroaded areas to disclose the environmental effects of continuing to manage each area in an unroaded condition and of developing all or a portion of each area.

To do this, this appendix presents a description of the environment, presents the proposed management allocation for each of the alternatives, and discloses the environmental consequences of those alternatives for each area

If road building, timber harvest, or other development occurs in these areas, they will no longer be eligible for consideration for wilderness. This itself may be a significant environmental consequence. For this reason, we are considering each area's attributes as a wilderness--such as its capability, availability, and need--so that any decision to designate the area for particular uses will be made with full knowledge of the environmental consequences.

B. BACKGROUND

The first Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE Final Environmental Impact Statement, October 1973) identified 17 roadless areas on the Malheur National Forest. In 1976, RARE II was initiated and resulted in three additional areas being identified and added to the roadless inventory and additional acres added to previously identified areas. There were 20 roadless areas in the final RARE II (Final Environmental Impact Statement, January 1979) inventory in which one, Pine Creek, was designated for further planning and one, Strawberry Mountain, was partially recommended for wilderness. The remaining areas were recommended for nonwilderness management.

Unit planning, which was completed on the Forest in December 1978, recommended management of these 20 roadless areas the same way as the RARE II Final Environmental Impact Statement (with Strawberry Mountain partially to wilderness, Pine Creek to further planning, and the remainder to nonwilderness uses).

Various pieces of legislation since RARE II have proposed areas for wilderness designation. Legislation in the House of Representatives in 1983 included Jumpoff Joe, Greenhorn Mountain, Strawberry Mountain, Glacier Mountain, and Monument Rock roadless areas at various times.

The Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 designated additional acres to Strawberry Mountain and most of the Monument Rock area as wilderness. The disposition of these areas was decided by this law. This appendix does not include any further evaluation of these areas.

There are now 18 remaining roadless areas which were inventoried in RARE II. No new roadless areas have been identified on the Malheur National Forest since RARE II. These areas are listed in Table C-1 and their locations are shown on Figure C-1.

Tables C-2, C-3, and C-4 following Figure C-1 provide information about the current recreational use of each area and its potential use as it exists today. Table C-2 displays the amount of use in Recreation Visitor Days (12 hours of use by one person or equivalent use). Table C-3 displays the acres of various types of recreational opportunity. Table C-4 displays the amount of use each area could provide if used to capacity, again in Recreation Visitor Days.

Table C-5 displays both total acreage and acres remaining roadless at the end of decades one, two, and five for each RARE II Area and alternatives.